

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:08 p.m. at the Mellon Auditorium.

NOTE: H.R. 1758, approved July 5, was assigned Public Law No. 103-272.

Statement on Signing Transportation Legislation

July 5, 1994

Today I have signed into law H.R. 1758, an act to revise, codify, and enact certain general and permanent laws related to transportation.

Section 31134 directs the Secretary of Transportation to establish the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Regulatory Review Panel. The legislation grants panelists a position within the Federal Government that is endowed with tenure and continuing duties as well as significant authority, including the authority to compel the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a regulatory proceeding and to prescribe final regulations. For this reason, panelists are officers of the United States. Fourteen of the fifteen members of the panel are to be appointed from lists submitted by two committees of the Congress. The Constitution prohibits the Congress from sharing in the power to appoint officers of the United States other than through the Senate's confirmation role. As such, no statute may require an appointment to be made from a list submitted by a Member, committee, or other agent of the Congress. I therefore do not interpret section 31134(c)(2) as binding and direct the Secretary of Transportation to regard any lists submitted pursuant to section 31134(c)(2) as advisory.

I also note that section 42104(c) purports to enact a legislative veto with respect to specific regulations issued by the Secretary of Labor pertaining to air carrier employees. The Supreme Court has ruled definitively that legislative vetoes are unconstitutional. Under the Court's precedents, the legislative veto provision contained in section 42104(c) is severable from H.R. 1758. I therefore instruct the Secretary of Labor to disregard section 42104(c).

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 5, 1994.

Statement on Signing Federal Housing Administration Legislation

July 5, 1994

Home ownership is one of the foundation stones of the American dream. Renewing and expanding this dream is one of my Administration's highest priorities and deepest commitments.

Our economic plan, which did so much to lower interest rates, has helped make homes affordable for more people. As more Americans realize that home ownership is within their reach, many of them turn to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae) for Government assistance. These programs, some of which operate at a profit to the Federal Government, have enabled millions of Americans to enjoy the pride and sense of accomplishment that come with owning your own home.

As new home purchases and refinancings continue at a rapid rate, single-family home purchasers will soon be unable to do business with the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and Ginnie Mae—absent corrective action—because the increased demand for loans has exhausted their loan authority. That is why the Congress, acting responsibly and in a fiscally prudent manner, adopted a supplemental appropriation to replenish these funds. Today I am signing into law H.R. 4568, which provides a supplemental appropriation for HUD and Ginnie Mae so that these agencies can continue their good work in helping low- and middle-income Americans build their piece of the American dream.

Specifically, the Act provides: (1) increased loan commitment authority of \$35 billion for the FHA Mutual Mortgage Insurance program; (2) increased Ginnie Mae loan guarantee commitment authority of \$55 billion; (3) an increase of \$3 billion in loan volume for condominium and other housing insurance programs; and (4) an additional \$18 million in budget authority to subsidize mortgages for the purchase or construction of rental housing. Equally important, this legis-

lation will not add a penny to the Federal deficit. So, as we continue putting our fiscal house in order, this legislation will ensure that home ownership becomes the order of the day for more and more Americans.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 5, 1994.

NOTE: H.R. 4568, approved July 5, was assigned Public Law No. 103-275.

Statement on Relocating Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty Headquarters

July 5, 1994

The Radios made a significant contribution to the victory of freedom during the cold war. All friends of liberty appreciate the strong support of the German Government and in particular the Bavarian officials over the last four decades. With this move, the Radios begin a new chapter in the continuing struggle to consolidate democracy throughout the former Communist bloc. I am grateful to President Havel and the Czech Government for its generous offer and look forward to working with it to ensure the Radios' important work continues.

NOTE: This statement was part of a statement by the Press Secretary on the decision to accept the offer of the Czech Government to make the former Parliament building in Prague available to Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty.

Exchange With Reporters During Discussions With Baltic Leaders in Riga, Latvia

July 6, 1994

Russian Withdrawals

Q. Mr. President, did you make any progress in your conversation with Mr. Yeltsin?

The President. I think we're making good progress. I think we're making good progress toward completing the troop withdrawals on schedule, working out some of the remaining controversies over the rights of Latvian minorities. I feel good about it.

We talked about that here, as well as about our economic cooperation. And this agreement is, I think, just the beginning of what will be a long and very deep relationship between these two countries and with the United States and the Baltics generally.

Q. Did Yeltsin give you a firm commitment on August 31 withdrawal?

The President. Well, he certainly clearly wants to complete the troop withdrawal, and he's worked very hard. You know, this has been a priority issue between the two of us, and I think that it will proceed apace. I feel good about where we are right now.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:30 a.m. in the White Room at Riga Castle. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

The President's News Conference With Baltic Leaders in Riga

July 6, 1994

President Clinton. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Last year I had the pleasure of meeting these three Presidents, President Ulmanis, President Meri, and President Brazauskas, during the opening of the U.N. General Assembly. It is a great honor for me to see them again here as the first American President to set foot on free Baltic soil. On Monday, my country celebrated the birth of democracy in America 218 years ago. Today, on behalf of all Americans, I salute the Baltic countries for another birth of democracy. And I salute the Baltic people for the courage, the perseverance, and the discipline that made independence possible.

We have just had a very productive session. We noted the considerable progress made since we met last year and focused on the goals we all share: to expand democracy, security, and the broad integration of the Baltic countries with the West.

Much of our discussion focused on the hope for an historic withdrawal of the last Russian troops from Latvia and Estonia by August 31st. I congratulate President Ulmanis on the withdrawal agreement he and President Yeltsin signed in Moscow. The United States is prepared to double the level